

substrate 1a, as requested by the Examiner. These features are at least shown in originally filed Figs. 1(b) and 11. No new matter is added. See MPEP 2163, for example.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is moot at least in view of the amendments to the specification and the drawings. In particular, as discussed above, the specification and Figs. 1(b) and 11 are amended as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Negita (GB 2002-955) in view of Nagai (U.S. Patent No. 4,405,875). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Negita does not disclose or suggest a housing having a first ceramic substrate having a first thickness, and a second ceramic substrate provided with an opening and having a second thickness larger than the first thickness, the second ceramic substrate being laminated on the first ceramic substrate, and an edge portion of the opening and a periphery of the opening being metallized, as recited in claim 8. In fact, as admitted by the Office Action, Negita does not disclose any opening in the housing 8.

Furthermore, Nagai does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 8 missing from Negita. Nagai also does not disclose or suggest a first ceramic substrate having a first thickness, and a second ceramic substrate provided with the opening and having a second thickness larger than the first thickness, the second ceramic substrate being laminated on the first ceramic substrate, as recited in claim 8. In fact, Nagai does not show any laminated substrate where the substrate provided with the window has a larger thickness. See Figs. 13A and 30 of Nagai, for example.

Accordingly, even if combined, Negita and Nagai do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 8. Thus, claim 8 would not have been obvious over Negita and Nagai. Because claims 1-6, 10-13 and 15-22 depend from claim 8, claims 1-6, 10-13 and 15-22 also would not have been obvious over Negita and Nagai.

Contrary to the teachings of Negita and Nagai, claim 8 recites a first ceramic substrate having a first thickness, and a second ceramic substrate provided with an opening and having a second thickness larger than the first thickness, the second ceramic substrate being laminated on the first ceramic substrate. As shown in Fig. 1(b) and 11, for example, when the sealing element is heated, if the thickness of the substrate 1b is larger than the thickness of the substrate 1a, the thermal capacity of the substrate 1b may become large, and the movement of heat to the substrate 1a may become less. As a result, heat may be efficiently conducted to the opening formed in the substrate 1b, for example. Furthermore, heat may be efficiently conducted to the sealing member 9, and the sealing performance may improve.

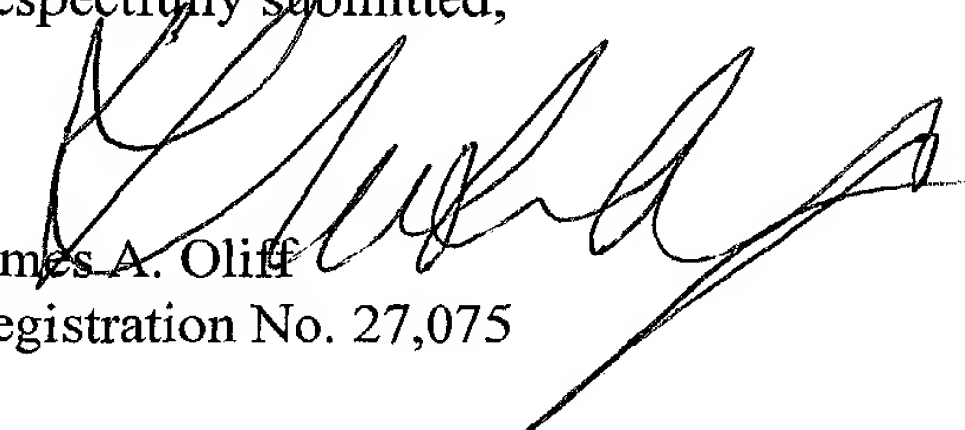
Due to the high temperature during sealing (200°C, more or less), a thermal stress may be generated in the substrates 1a and 1b. However, if the thickness of the substrate 1b is larger than the thickness of the substrate 1a, a stress resistance characteristic of the substrate 1b may improve and a crack may not be generated in the sealing portion formed in the substrate 1b. Therefore, at least the sealing performance will improve.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-22 would not have been obvious over Negita and Nagai. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and due allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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